

The election process

Elections to the Canal & River Trust Council will use the Single Transferable Vote system (STV). For details about the Single Transferable Vote system visit www.electoral-reform.org.uk/single-transferable-vote/

To ensure that the election process is fair, open and transparent we have enlisted the help of Electoral Reform Services, an independent organisation, to organise the election process. ERS is the market leader in this field and undertake some 2,000 elections on behalf of a range of clients including public sector organisations, trade unions, professional bodies and private companies. For more information regarding ERS visit www.electoral-reform.co.uk

When can I vote?

Voting for Council will open on Wednesday 8 February 2012. You will have 30 days to cast your vote. Voting will close at 12noon on Friday 9 March 2012.

How can I vote?

You can vote by post, phone or on-line. Your ballot pack, which you will receive shortly, will contain your Personal Identification Number and details on how to vote including:

- A form to complete and return by post (in a freepost envelope provided)
- A phone number which you can call to register your vote
- A web address to visit where you can cast your vote.

Any attempt to vote by more than one channel (e.g. by internet as well as by post) will be identified – the security codes used for each channel are recorded and compared, and any duplicates invalidated.

Ballot packs are being sent by post to the address that you have registered with British Waterways, when obtaining your boat licence for example. If you have also registered an email address with British Waterways, you will receive your ballot pack via email as well as through the post.

Which category can I vote for?

Candidates are standing in one of three categories:

- Private Boater
- Boating Business
- Employee

You can only vote in one category. For example a British Waterways' employee who also has a private boat can only vote within the Employee category.

Where can I find information about the candidates in my category?

Each candidate has submitted a 150 word manifesto. These manifestos will be contained within your ballot pack and be able to view on-line from 8 February.

How do I fill in an STV ballot paper?

Your ballot paper will list the names of all the candidates standing for election within your category (Private Boater, Boating Business or Employee).

Instead of putting a cross or tick next to your favourite candidate, you put a '1' against your first choice of candidate and can then put a '2' against your second choice, a '3' against your third choice

and so on for as many candidates on the ballot paper as you want. You do not need to list a preference for all candidates.

What if I want to vote for only one candidate?

You can vote for just one candidate if you wish. Your favourite candidate will not be disadvantaged if you list other preferences, these preferences will only be used if your first choice candidate is either safely elected or eliminated due to lack of votes. The more candidates for whom you do show preferences, the more likely your vote will influence the outcome of the election.

When will the results be announced?

The results will be announced on-line on Monday 12 March 2012.